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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF

STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

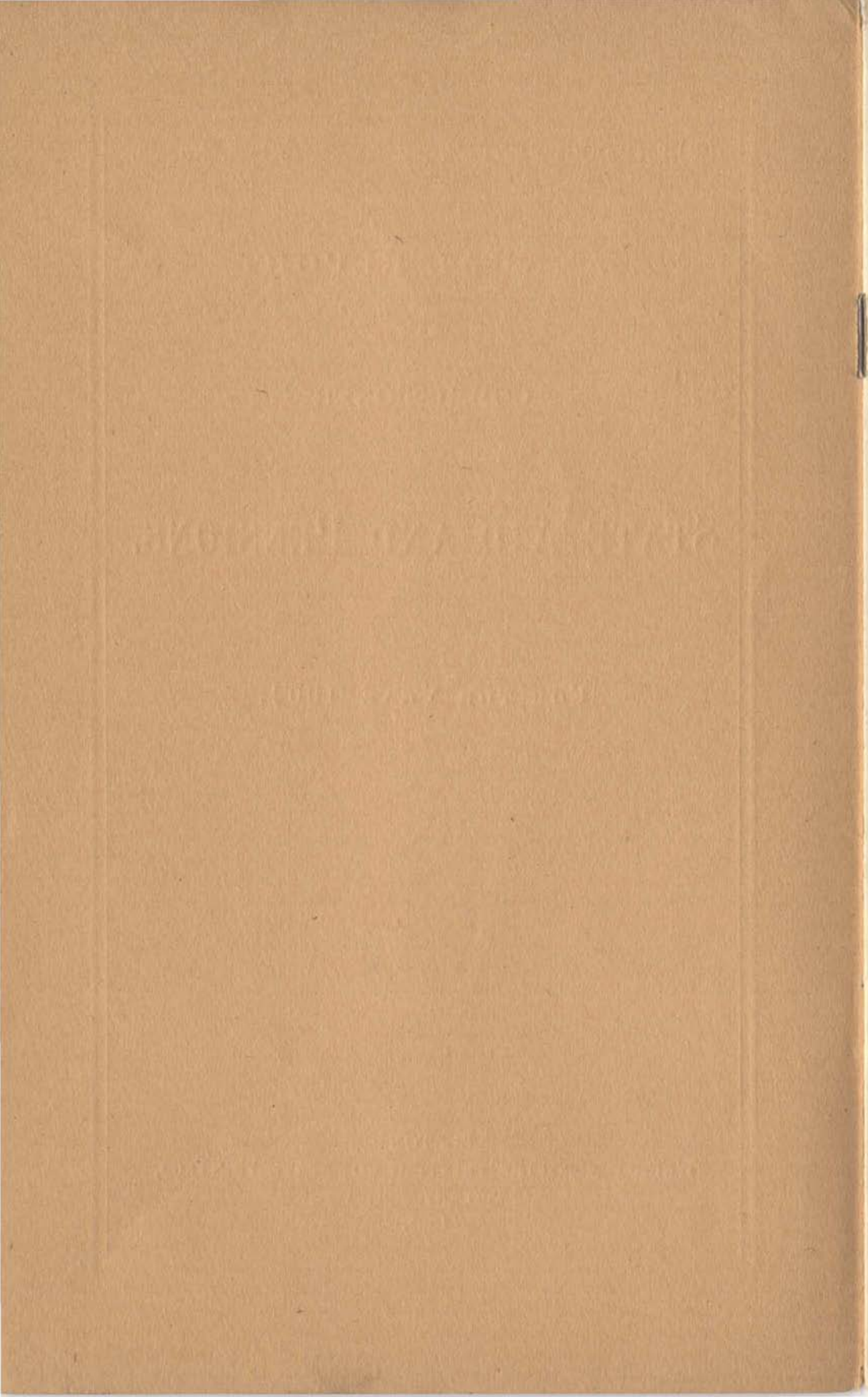
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FOR THE YEAR 1904.



BOSTON:

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

1901



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 24, 1905.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

The annual report of the department of State aid and pensions is herewith presented to your honorable bodies, the part relating to State aid and burials being for the year 1903, and that relating to pensions covering the year 1904.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,  
*Commissioner.*

# Commentary of H. H. H.

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Very respectfully,

W. H. H.

1888

# REPORT.

## STATE AND MILITARY AID.

Disbursements of State and military aid and for the burial of indigent soldiers, sailors and marines, their wives, widows and dependent fathers and mothers, were made by 348 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during the year 1903, as follows:—

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war, . . . . .	\$723,849 63
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain, . . . . .	4,374 50
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war, . . . . .	43,180 68
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain, . . . . .	6,200 59
Burial expenses of indigent soldiers and dependents, . . . . .	25,061 63
Total for 1903, . . . . .	<u>\$802,667 03</u>

The increase of expenditures in 1903 over 1902, amounting to \$18,596.21, was almost wholly owing to increased disbursements of State aid, occasioned by the increased disabilities of the veterans, incident to advancing years and their inability to perform manual labor, thus requiring a larger outlay.

There was a decrease of about \$3,000 in military aid and the burial of soldiers of both the civil war and the war with Spain.

Recipients of State aid on account of the civil war are classified as follows:—

Pensioned soldiers and sailors, . . . . .	7,098	Increase of 83
Wives of same, . . . . .	901	Increase of 34
Widows of same, . . . . .	6,761	Increase of 225
Dependent mothers, . . . . .	217	Decrease of 34
Dependent fathers, . . . . .	5	Decrease of 2
Army nurses, . . . . .	12	Increase of 3
Total, . . . . .	<u>14,994</u>	

Net increase of cases during 1903, 309.

Average cost to State per person aided, per annum, about \$48.

Recipients of State aid on account of the war with Spain are classified as follows : —

Pensioned soldiers and sailors, . . . . .	25
Widows, . . . . .	27
Wives, . . . . .	1
Widowed mothers, . . . . .	23
Dependent fathers, . . . . .	5
Children, . . . . .	24

An increase of 2 cases over 1902.

Military aid was extended to 748 soldiers and sailors of the civil war and to 101 of the war with Spain, at an expense to the State of \$49,381.27, — a decrease of \$1,447.99 from 1902. Expenditures under the military aid law will decrease from year to year, as numbers die, and many will be granted pensions, making them eligible to receive State aid.

In connection with the execution of this law, the commissioner takes pleasure in acknowledging the services rendered the department by Surg.-Gen. Otis H. Marion, whose examination of applicants for military aid have been thorough, and of much value to the commissioner in determining the amount of aid required by the soldiers.

*Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, their Wives, Widows and Mothers, and Army Nurses.*

Under the provisions of chapter 79 of the Revised Laws, as amended by chapter 292, Acts of 1902, there were buried 717 persons, classified as follows : —

Civil war : —	
Soldiers, . . . . .	497
Widows, . . . . .	139
Wives, . . . . .	30
Mothers, . . . . .	21
War with Spain : —	
Soldiers, . . . . .	30
Total, . . . . .	717

Expense to the State, \$25,061.63, — a decrease of \$2,004.39 from 1902.



*Total Payments of State Aid.*

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, from 1861 to the close of 1903, were . . .		\$29,183,793 97
State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1903, paid in 1904, . . . . .		802,667 03
Special laws, . . . . .	\$1,828 00	
Soldiers' Home, . . . . .	30,000 00	
		<hr/> 31,828 00
Total to Jan. 1, 1905, . . . . .		\$30,018,289 00

## PENSION DEPARTMENT.

The following statements and figures relating to the business of the office under his immediate charge were furnished by Col. J. B. Parsons, deputy commissioner: —

The amendment to the act of June 27, 1890, which went into effect April 13, 1904, made nearly double the amount of business done in this department during the last year, over previous years. Under former administrations, a claimant was allowed the full rating of pension of \$12 per month when he reached his seventy-fifth birthday, without examination; and the amendment to the act, which took effect last April, known as Order 78, simply put a more lenient construction on the act, granting a pension of \$6 per month to an applicant when he reached the age of sixty-two years, \$8 per month at sixty-five, \$10 per month at sixty-eight, and \$12 per month at seventy. It is necessary, under this ruling, that all the requirements of the act of June 27, 1890, be complied with, and the full and correct date of birth of the applicant must be established to the satisfaction of the Pension Bureau.

To the clerks in my department great credit is due for the way the extra work has been handled, and I desire to thank the commissioner for the help which he has furnished us and the assistance given us by his department.

To my second clerk, Miss Eva B. Holbrook, for her long and faithful service in the office, something more substantial than my appreciation for her service is due; and I recommend that her salary be increased from \$840 to \$1,000 a year.

The following is a detailed statement of the business of this office for the year ending Dec. 31, 1904: —

2,718 claims were filed, classified as follows:—

Soldiers (original), . . . . .	960
Increases, . . . . .	1,075
Widows (original), . . . . .	249
Widows (accrued), . . . . .	158
Reimbursement, . . . . .	78
Pay and bounty, . . . . .	38
Wives (one-half pension), . . . . .	7
Mothers, . . . . .	9
Fathers, . . . . .	2
Guardians, . . . . .	15
Restoration, . . . . .	18
New pension certificates, . . . . .	30
Transfers, . . . . .	11
Certificates of discharge, . . . . .	8
Wife to draw without guardianship, . . . . .	1
Unendorsed pension checks, . . . . .	6
Old claims, . . . . .	53
	<hr/>
	2,718
Number of claims allowed, . . . . .	1,912
Number of claims rejected, . . . . .	323
Amount collected, . . . . .	\$68,699 09

Several thousand pension vouchers were executed during the year, at a trifling extra expense to the State and at no expense to the pensioners.

The recommendation of Colonel Parsons to increase the salary of Miss Eva B. Holbrook from \$840 to \$1,000 a year is approved. Miss Holbrook has rendered years of efficient and faithful service to the State, and her mastery of the details of pension and other claims make her a most valuable assistant in the office.

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,

*Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions.*





